



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street, Suite 700
Post Office Box 600
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

80 North Hughey Avenue,
Room 201
Orlando, Florida 32801
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

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**FEDERAL OFFICIAL IN VOLUSIA COUNTY INDICTED FOR
ACCEPTING ILLEGAL GRATUITY AND MAKING FALSE STATEMENT**

Orlando, Florida –Yesterday, Guy Wayne Boykin, of Lake Helen, age 52, was arrested on an indictment returned last week by a federal grand jury in Orlando, Florida, that charges Boykin with accepting an illegal gratuity as a federal employee and making false statements to federal agents when questioned about it.

The two count indictment charges Boykin with accepting a \$3,000 check, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(c), and making a false statement to federal law enforcement agents, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001. The maximum penalty for accepting an illegal gratuity is two years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, one year of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment. The maximum penalty for making a false statement is five years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, one year of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

The indictment alleges that Boykin is employed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as a District Conservationist

in Volusia County. The NRCS administered a farm improvement program called the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Boykin was in charge of the program. The indictment charges that in September 1998, Boykin accepted a \$3,000 check from a local excavation contractor and that Boykin recommended this contractor to local farmers who had applied for EQIP funding. The indictment also charges that Boykin, when questioned by federal agents earlier this year, denied receiving anything of value from the contractor.

The case was investigated by agents with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General - Investigations. The case is being prosecuted by Bruce S. Ambrose, Assistant United States Attorney in the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

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